

METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR CONTENT SERVER SELECTION

Abstract of the Disclosure

Methods and apparatus providing information about characteristics
5 associated with a network are described. A network node associated with a client for
selecting a server that can best provide content to a client transmits a request for a
response. A plurality of content servers or content routing agents receive requests
corresponding to the request from the network node associated with the client. The
content servers provide a response and fragment and/or pad datagrams associated with
10 the response. The content servers transmit these fragmented and/or padded datagrams
to the network node associated with the client. The network node associated with the
client can reassemble and/or trim the received datagrams and identify as optimal the
server that first completes transmission of the response.